



Algonquin Ridge Elementary School

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Cory McKeown

Principal

Karen Moffitt

Vice-Principal

ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS January 2022

Character attribute for the month of January

Honesty - we behave in a sincere, trustworthy and truthful manner.

More information about character education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and welcome back(ish)! I am somewhat disappointed that this is the exact same opening sentence I had to use in the January Newsletter 1 year ago, but I am also thrilled that we will have a chance to see children return to in-person learning next week on the 17th! We hope you all had a safe, merry, and enjoyable Winter/Christmas Break even though once again families were required to adhere to limits and restrictions, that may have impacted your plans but ultimately helped to keep us all safe.

Next week our focus will be on safely returning to the in-person learning routines as the first term draws to a close. Teachers continue to collect the assessment data that will be used to prepare the summative reports that will be sent home on February 18th (products, observations and conversations). As you prepare for next week, please ensure that you have read and understand the communication/reminders that will be sent to you by the school and schoolboard. Of particular importance are messages related to Covid 19 precautions and the critical need for students/families to complete the screening tool each day. It is also important to remember that outside supervision begins at 8:55 a.m. daily, with students expected to go directly to their designated line up location as soon as they arrive. Winter's arrival means that students need to be dressed for the weather and prepared to be outside during nutrition break. FYI—the school board's policy is for outdoor recess to occur unless temperatures drop below -25 C. We will make every effort to promote a healthy lifestyle by continuing outdoor recess up to this threshold, although we will sometimes shorten the outdoor portion on extremely cold days and students are always permitted to warm-up inside when required/requested. We still have many donated winter coats and snow-pants (and some boots) in the school for any students in need. Please contact either your child's teacher or the office if your child can use something.

Once again, as I have been doing every January, I would like to thank the Algonquin Ridge families (students/parents/extended family and staff) for their generous support of families within our own school over the holiday season. Your donations were all very much appreciated by almost a dozen families, and they went a long way towards easing some of the stresses that the holidays can bring. In addition, our school community was also able to make a significant donation to the Seniors' Wish campaign.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Stevenson (VP) for her dedicated work at Algonquin Ridge over the last few months. As of this week she has been reassigned to Mountain View PS in Collingwood to assume the Vice-Principal responsibilities there. I am sure that any of you who had the opportunity to get to know her during her time at ARES will agree that the Mountain View community are fortunate to be welcoming such a dedicated and knowledgeable new administrator. We are pleased to have Ms. Moffitt, who returned to ARES at the end of November, continue to support our students, staff and families. I can also share at this time that Mme. Martin, French teacher who joined the Algonquin staff this year has accepted a full-time position at Tottenham Public School effective Jan. 24th. While we are sad to see her leave, we congratulate her on her new position and wish her all the best at her new school. Students in her classes will meet their new teacher as soon as the selection process is complete.

Once again, welcome back and know that we appreciate everything you are doing at home, as parents, guardians and caregivers to keep our school and community safe. Take care.

Cory McKeown & Karen Moffitt

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 31, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Any interested parents are welcome to attend and will receive the virtual meeting link, if requested through the school office via email to acompton@scdsb.on.ca. All previous attendees need not make a request each month as they will be sent the link automatically.

CALENDAR

January 27 – Spirit Day – Pajama Extravaganza Day
January 28 – PA Day – **no school**
January 31 – Virtual School Council @ 6:30pm
February 7 – Grade 8 graduation pictures
February 14 – Valentine’s Day
February 18 – Report Cards home
February 21 – Family Day
February 25 – Spirit Day – White Out/Black Out Day
February 28 – Virtual School Council @ 6:30 pm
March 3 – Colts Night – Barrie vs Kingston
March 14 – 18 – March Break – **school closed**
March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
March 25 – Random Fan Day

HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS IN DECEMBER

December 6 – Chanukah ends – Judaism
December 8 – Bodhi Day/Awakening day – Buddhism
December 13 – Birthday of Imam Aga Khan – Islam
December 14 – Maun Agiyaras - Jainism
December 18 – Sangnamitta Day - Buddhism
December 21 – Yule/Winter Solstice – Wicca
December 25 – Christmas Day – Christianity
December 26 – Zarathosht-no-diso (FC) – Zoroastrianism
December 26 – Boxing Day – Canadian holiday
January 1 – Temple Day (Solar New Year)
January 1 – New Year’s Day – Christianity
January 5 – Birth of Guru Gobind Singh – Sikhism
January 6 – Epiphany (J) – Christianity

DAYS OF AWARENESS

January 27 - Family Literacy Day
January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day
January 28 – Bell Let’s Talk Day

HERITAGE RECOGNITION DAYS

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (December 6)

Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. December 6 also represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on violence against women in our society. For more information, visit <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/remembrance-commemoration-en.html>.

January is Tamil Heritage Month - Tamils began migrating to Ontario as early as the 1940s. The province of Ontario recognizes the valuable contributions that Tamil Canadians have made to Ontario’s social, economic, political and cultural fabric. For more information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14t04>

UPDATES TO THE SCHOOL SCREENING TOOL FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR - INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Recently, the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) was updated to reflect the return to school requirements for students who are returning from international travel. Individuals who are unvaccinated and returning from international travel, may not attend school or childcare for 14 days upon their return. For further clarity, while unvaccinated children and those under the age of 12 are exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled with a fully vaccinated companion, they may not attend school or childcare for 14 days upon their return. Individuals with all other quarantine exemptions (e.g., travelling for cross-border custody arrangements, travelling for medical treatment) may continue to attend school or childcare.

CONSIDERATIONS PRIOR TO TRAVELLING THIS WINTER

Is your family is thinking of travelling this winter? Here are some things to consider before you make the arrangements:

1. Learn about travel advisories related to COVID-19 where you are headed, before leaving - <https://bit.ly/3Czlk5l>
2. Be sure you understand how the Quarantine Act applies to travelers arriving back in Canada - <https://bit.ly/3HAIOft>

Students who have travelled outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days if they do not qualify for a federal quarantine travel exemption. Your child's ability to return to school after travel outside of Canada will depend on whether or not they are fully vaccinated. If they are fully vaccinated, they may be exempt from federal quarantine. If they are not fully vaccinated, they are not to attend school/childcare for 14 days, even if they traveled with a vaccinated companion. A reminder that all students must complete the [COVID-19 Screening Tool](#) before going to school each day. This includes questions related to travel and guidance for those who have travelled. More information can be found on the Government of Canada website: <https://bit.ly/3ctaLqa>. *Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR AND CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT ACTION RELATED TO RACISM, BIAS OR HATE

At the SCDSB, we are committed to maintaining safe, inviting and supportive school environments, and recognize that all students have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in our schools. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.

We want you to know that any incident of racism, bias or hate will not be tolerated. Any such incident is treated very seriously with immediate action and consequences in accordance with the requirements of the *Education Act*, and consistent with our values and obligations under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

Students who engage in acts of racism, bias or hate will face severe consequences as a result of their actions. Please take a moment to review the [SCDSB Code of Conduct](#) with your child(ren). The Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour and specifies consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards.

We are dedicated to educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism. We continue to work with students, staff, parents/guardians and community partners to ensure that our schools are the safe places they are intended to be for all students.

FUNDRAISING WITH BRADFORD GREENHOUSES GARDEN GALLERY

When shopping at Garden Gallery please advise the cashier, prior to inputting the sale that you support Algonquin Ridge and five percent of the value of sales will be issued as a gift card for the purchase of Bradford Greenhouses products for school improvements or special events. A fast and easy way to support the school and to keep our gardens looking great!

FLIPGIVE FUNDRAISER

Hello ARES Families, we invite you to join our easy and free school fundraiser - FlipGive! You're doing it already... online shopping for groceries, gas, clothing, meals, coffee, gift cards, gifts, sporting goods, books, home decor, renovations, etc. ARES will earn fundraising money when you shop via FlipGive's website with hundreds of popular brands available. You can also shop in-store and earn by using a linked payment card or with gift cards to be redeemed in-store. How does it work? Brands on FlipGive's site pay FlipGive a commission and then they in-turn share that commission with ARES! Every dollar earned is credited directly to our school's fundraising efforts. It's that simple! SHOP, EARN and DONATE! It's quick and free! Sign up and start shopping today! flipgive.com Enter Team Code: SLQPHH If you have any questions, reach out to School Council at councilchairlr@scdsb.on.ca Thank you for your participation and supporting the school!

MABEL'S LABELS

Mabel's Labels is one of our school's fundraising initiatives. This website features peel and stick clothing labels, bag tags and a variety of safety and household labeling systems. This will be an ongoing, open initiative for our school which means that any time you wish to get labels for your children or household, please consider using Mabel's Labels and help Algonquin Ridge. It could not be easier. Simply go to <http://mabelslabels.com> and click on "Support a Fundraiser". Then "Select your School/Organization", find "Algonquin Ridge (Barrie)" and follow the steps to fulfill your order. Anyone can support our school, whether their children attend ARES or not, so please pass this on to family and friends as well. The product comes directly to you and the school will receive 20% of the total sales! Thank you so much for your support.



SCHOOL PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES ARE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER

Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community, despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (e.g., sand, pea gravel or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen

PEANUT AND NUT AWARE SCHOOL

Our school strives to be a Nut-Safe School. At Algonquin Ridge, we have several students who have a severe nut allergy. These students cannot be exposed to nuts in ANY form, as this may trigger an anaphylactic reaction that is life threatening and requires immediate medical intervention. Therefore, in the best interests of these students and for any other students who may develop peanut or nut allergies in the future we have banned all peanut/nuts and food containing nuts within the school. These include, but are not limited to:

- Peanut butter sandwiches, dips, or crackers
- Nutella
- Cookies or cakes with nuts
- Granola Bars with nuts
- Chocolate bars containing nuts e.g., Snickers.
- Dried Fruit and nut mixes



Direct contact with the food is not always required to trigger a reaction. For example, if someone in our school eats peanuts and then touches playground equipment it could be contaminated with enough peanut butter to trigger a severe reaction. We also ask that children who have peanut butter for breakfast on school days please wash their hands thoroughly and clean their teeth before coming to school.

As always, our paramount concern is for the safety and well-being for all children in our care. We feel this is the best way to attempt to ensure the safety of students that have severe nut allergies in our school. If your child forgets to comply with this, we will send a reminder home with them and provide an alternative snack. Teachers will also assist students by reinforcing the policy through class discussions.

IS IT TIME FOR YOUR CHILD TO HAVE A DENTAL CHECK-UP? LET US HELP!

The Oral Health Team at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is now available to provide a variety of dental health services for children and youth aged 0–17 at our various clinic locations. We can provide dental screenings, answer questions and guide you through the dental options that are available for your child through Healthy Smiles Ontario. If you don't have a dentist, we can provide you with options of dental offices that can help.

This is your personal invitation to contact us to discuss your child's dental needs and to ensure their dental concerns are addressed.

For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520, ext. 5867.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

[SAFETY MEASURES IN SCHOOLS](#)

We want to assure you that the health and well-being of our students and staff remains our top priority. We are in regular contact with our local health authority, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), and we continue to take their direction on all matters related to COVID-19. Please visit the COVID-19 Return to School page on the SMDHU website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org for additional information. The following health and safety measures will be implemented in our schools.

Masking:

- Students from Kindergarten (JK and SK) through Grade 12 will be required to wear masks while indoors.
- Staff will be required to wear masks while indoors.

Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols:

- Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom for student and teacher use.
- Students will receive training on proper hand hygiene including instructions on hand washing and sanitizing.

Ventilation

- Standalone high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter units will be placed in all schools without mechanical ventilation.
- HEPA filter units will be placed in all standalone Kindergarten classrooms.

Enhanced Cleaning:

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting at least twice a day of frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, light switches, toilets, and faucet handles.
- Buses will be sanitized twice daily with frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

Physical Distancing:

- Directional arrows and signage will be utilized in schools to support physical distancing measures.
- Schools will have designated entry and exit doors and staggered entry and exit times.
- Acrylic shielding will remain installed in school offices.

[DAILY COVID-19 SELF-ASSESSMENT](#)

All students and staff will be required to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings, using the provincial self-assessment tool. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

[INSTRUCTIONS FOR WHEN CHILDREN BECOME SICK AT SCHOOL](#)

Parents/guardians will be asked to provide multiple contacts who will be available to pick up their child(ren) in the event that they become ill while at school. Children who become ill while at school will not be able to travel on a bus home for the protection of the other riders.

[INCLEMENT WEATHER AND BUS CANCELLATION INFORMATION REMINDER](#)

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the **CENTRAL** zone. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. School staff are expected to plan for such emergencies in order to transition students who are unable to attend due to inclement weather, to their online platforms (Google Classroom and/or SCDSBhub [Brightspace by D2L]) and continue with academic programming. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

The Consortium and bus operators try to make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and make every effort to post announcements before 7 a.m. Inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can follow the Consortium on Twitter [@SCSTC_SchoolBus](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>. For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact your school principal.

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JANUARY PA DAY

Please note that Friday, Jan. 28 is a PA Day for elementary SCDSB students, both Learn@Home and in school. Please refer to the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:
www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2022 IS OPEN!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2022? If so, we invite you to register your child for kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit:
www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT IEPS AND SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENTS? JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION OUTREACH SESSION

In 2022, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/guardians in learning more about programs, supports and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs.

On Jan. 13, join us for the first session, 'IEPs and school-based assessments – information for parents/guardians.' This virtual presentation will run from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will include opportunities for participants to share their questions regarding IEPs and school-based assessments.

For more information and to register visit: https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education.

[JOIN US! A LEARNING SERIES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS](#)

Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to announce a new three-year partnership with Pine River Institute (PRI). The Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) will provide several multi-part learning series focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.

There are three upcoming webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents and guardians during this school year.

Jan. 25, 2022 Understanding and Managing Screen Time

March 29, 2022 Connection and Empathy in Response to Behaviour

May 19, 2022 Understanding Addiction and Addictive Behaviours

We hope you save these dates in your calendar and join us for these learning opportunities. For more information and to register, please visit the mental health and well-being page on the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3jGaC74>. Pine River Institute is a live-in treatment centre and outdoor leadership experience for youth aged 13 to 19 struggling with addictive behaviours and often other mental health issues. Combining therapy with a fully accredited education program, PRI reinforces the healthy life skills required for a successful future. CFI@PRI extends PRI's knowledge, experience and evidence-informed treatment approach to families and care providers in the community to support youth mental wellness and prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Learn more about PRI by visiting their website at www.pineriverinstitute.com.

[MATH @HOME PARENT SERIES](#)

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey. The winners of the prizes will be notified in January. The SCDSB math department is offering three evening virtual sessions for caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. Participants will receive a math pack of resources to use at home and must pre-register for each of the sessions by visiting <https://bit.ly/SCDSBMathAtHomeRegistration>.

Having fun with math facts @Home

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore practical, intentional and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants will leave with ideas, games and activities to support their child in becoming fluent with their math facts.

Making math connections @Home

Thursday, March 24, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore where we find numbers, patterns, measures and shapes in our daily lives.

Participants will learn about practical ways to help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world.

Problem solving @Home

Wednesday, April 26, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and around the house. Participants will learn about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class.

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a Math @Home pack of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form.